

Timothy B. Riker
1822 15th Street NW
Unit B1
Washington, DC 20009

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: CG Docket No. 06-181

Dear Sir or Madam:

After closely following the case and assessing views from both sides, I would like to provide my own interpretation regarding why exemptions to the rule for closed captioning should not be allowed.

1. Television is a public communications medium that should be made accessible to everyone, including those with hearing loss if technology to do so is readily available.
2. The technology, closed captioning, is available to provide people with hearing loss access.
3. The public is aware of this technology through increased visibility such as sponsorship of closed captioning for shows and when used in noisy public places.
4. Adequate time has been allowed for production companies to become aware of the law requiring closed captioning—the 10 year phasing period was generous and realistic.
5. It is the production company's responsibility to be aware of the requirements for broadcasting shows and to ensure that the budget allows for closed captioning as it would with studio lighting, sound technicians and other essential requirements to produce the show.
6. Exemptions would mean excluding those hearing loss from access to televised programs when they are broadcast to the public, the technology is available, adequate time has been allowed for

compliance, the public is aware of the technology and it is used in multiple ways, and production companies should anticipate the cost of closed captioning when deciding if they want to broadcast shows.

7. Exemptions would reverse the objective of making television an accessible medium of communication for everyone, including people with hearing loss, and turn a required component of broadcasting into something that is optional.

I do not believe that exemptions are fair or equitable because progress needs to continue forward to ensure access of televised programs to everyone. By providing exemptions, FCC will weaken the requirements for production companies who will believe it is optional. The FCC should not weaken regulations just because production companies fail to anticipate their expenses or their shows do not receive enough public support or advertising revenue to sustain them.

Best regards,

Timothy B. Riker